



**COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS
TOWN OF NEW MARLBOROUGH
OFFICE OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
807 Mill River Southfield Road, Mill River, MA 01244-0099
Phone: 413-229-8116 Fax: 413-229-6674 E-mail: nmbdselectmen@aol.com**

**Nathaniel H. Yohalem, Chair
Tara B. White
Michele Shalaby
Board of Selectmen**

Minutes of December 9th, 2013

Board Members Present: Nathaniel Yohalem, Chairman
Tara B. White

Others Present: Michael Skorput, Administrative Assistant
Jessica Bosworth, Administrative Secretary

The meeting of the Board of Selectmen convened at 6:05 pm.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by both members to approve the minutes of December 2nd, 2013.

Performance Reviews

The Board received the review for Administrative Secretary, Jessica Bosworth that had been prepared by Administrative Assistant, Michael Skorput based on the agreement that was made at the time of hire. After successfully completing a three month probationary period beginning on September 3rd, 2013, Mrs. Bosworth's salary would increase by \$1,000.00 per year. Chairman Yohalem and Selectman White agreed that the review was favorable. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted by both members to accept the review for Administrative Secretary, Jessica Bosworth and to adjust her salary by \$1,000.00 per year effective [Monday] December 2nd, 2013.**

The Board asked that Mr. Skorput have the review for Highway Superintendent, Charles Loring completed by next week's meeting.

Announcements and Updates

Jessica Bosworth reported to the Board that the Town has received payment on the Foley Bridge project for the October invoices.

Chairman Yohalem discussed the Memorandum of Understanding regarding the use of the Fire Station by the Emergency Management Director. Approval of the document by Town Counsel had been received. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted by both members that the Chairman be authorized to sign, on behalf of the Town, the Memorandum of Understanding**

between New Marlborough Emergency Management and the New Marlborough Volunteer Fire Company, subject to any typographical changes.

Classification Hearing

The Board of Assessors Chairman, Marsha Pshenishny, recommended that one tax rate be set for an estimated amount of \$9.03, \$.06 higher than last year. Based on the current estimates the Town is \$118,436.08 below the levy limit. However, these figures are subject to the review of the State's Department of Revenue which are due by the end of the week. The tax bills need to be sent out before January 1st.

Announcements and Updates

It was noted that Selectman Shalaby is meeting with Elizabeth Olenbush this week on solar energy and will give a report at next week's meeting.

Michael Skorput reported that Town Clerk, Katherine Chretien chose a safe for the storage of Town records with an approximate cost of \$4,900.00. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted by both members to approve the expenditure of \$4,900.00 plus shipping and handling for a safe for the storage of Town records.**

Selectmen White gave a brief update on the Land Auction, noting that Marianne Sullivan [of Sullivan & Sullivan] was notified of the Board's decision to approve her firm's proposal. A meeting will be set to further discuss the details once Treasurer, Patricia Mielke returns from her vacation.

Chairman Yohalem announced that the Finance Committee had met Thursday evening to hear the capital needs of the Highway and Fire Departments. Discussion on the budgets will take place at next week's meeting.

The chairman also announced that next week's meeting will begin at 5:30 pm.

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by both members to adjourn the regular meeting in order to convene the special permit hearing at 6:30 pm.

Special Permit Hearing – Jim Koneazny

Jim Koneazny came before the Board with a request to build an equipment storage shed on the property located at 967 Cross Road to Canaan Valley. The 80ft x 80ft building will be built 600 feet from the road and used for commercial truck and equipment storage. The Board received a letter of opposition from Norma and Frank Monda stating that they are against a commercial structure being built on a residential road; the increased traffic from which would ruin the area, and could impact the property value of their homes. Mr. Koneazny addressed the points made by the Mondas stating that the trucks from his business use that road currently, so there would be no additional traffic. As for the building, Mr. Koneazny assured the Board that it would not be visible from the road and would have no signs and only "low-impact" lighting. **After a discussion a motion was made, seconded and so voted to approve the special permit application for Jim Koneazny to build an 80ft x 80ft equipment storage building at 967 Cross Road to Canaan Valley. A roll call vote was called for Nathaniel Yohalem – yes, Tara White – yes.**

A motion was made, seconded and so voted by both members to adjourn the special permit hearing at 6:44 pm.

The hearing for two pole applications was in session at 6:45 pm.

Pole Hearing – National Grid and Verizon

A representative from National Grid came before the Board to propose the installation of a new pole labeled 57.5 on Hartsville New Marlborough Road, 3,582 feet from the intersection of New Marlborough Hill Road, for the purpose of bringing in a line to service multiple dwellings. There were no abutters present. **A motion was made, seconded and so approved by both members to approve the application for a pole to be installed on Hartsville New Marlborough Road. A roll call vote was called for Nathaniel Yohalem – yes, Tara White – yes.**

Pole Hearing – National Grid and Verizon

A contractor from National Grid came before the Board to propose the installation of 14 new mid-span poles to be placed on Hotchkiss Road between any existing poles with a gap of 200 or more feet. The project will entail raising pole heights [40ft] to meet current standards and upgrading the wires to be larger and insulated. Any existing poles that require replacing would be done as well. There was an abutter present in favor of the project. **A motion was made, seconded and so voted by both members to approve the application for 14 poles to be installed on Hotchkiss Road. A roll call vote was called for Nathaniel Yohalem – yes, Tara White – yes.**

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was back in session at 7:07 pm.

Being that there was no further business to be brought before the Board, a motion was made, seconded and so voted by all members to adjourn the meeting at 7:07 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Jessica Bosworth
Administrative Secretary